

PATENT SPECIFICATION

(11) 1 369 201

1 369 201 (21) Application No. 28255/70 (22) Filed 11 June 1970
(23) Complete Specification filed 8 Sept. 1971
(44) Complete Specification published 2 Oct. 1974
(51) International Classification F16B 45/00
(52) Index at acceptance
E2A H21B H21D H21G H23DX H24A1 H24D3A
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(54) IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO SNAP-HOOKS

(71) We SIEBE GORMAN & COMPANY LIMITED, of Davis Road, Chessington, Surrey, a British Company, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

The invention relates to snap-hooks as generally employed to provide for the quick attachment, and detachment, of a rope or line to, and from, an eye or ring or other attachment point.

The invention provides a snap-hook which comprises a body portion recessed to form a cavity and formed with a slot to provide access through the body portion to the rear of the cavity, a hook formed integrally with and extending from the body portion, and a mousing piece also formed integrally with the body portion for closing the hook, one end of the slot being situated on the opposite side of the body portion to that from which the hook extends.

With the snap-hook of the invention, a rope can be threaded through the body portion, a knot in the rope passing into the cavity through its opening but not being able to pass out through the slot, so that the rope is secured to the snap-hook. The mousing piece can be opened to permit engagement of the hook and then closed.

As an alternative to using the snap-hook in conjunction with a rope threaded through the body portion, the snap-hook may be used in combination with a swivel comprising a loop, through which can be passed a flexible connector, and extending from the loop an integral stem projecting through the slot in the snap-hook, the stem being formed with an enlarged portion retained in the cavity of the snap-hook. The swivel is advantageously detachable from the snap-hook by passing it through the opening of the cavity in the snap-hook.

Advantageously, the snap-hook and the swivel are each made as one-piece mouldings from a suitable plastics material.

This enables a considerable economy to be made in manufacturing and material costs as compared with previous devices of this kind.

A snap-hook and a swivel constructed in accordance with the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the snap-hook;

Figure 2 is a front elevation of the swivel for attachment to the snap-hook of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the snap-hook and the swivel; and

Figures 4 and 5 are front and rear views, respectively, of the snap-hook of Figure 1 with the end of a rope or cord attached thereto.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, and first to Figure 1, a snap-hook is composed of a suitable plastics material, for example nylon, moulded in one piece, and comprises an oval or egg-shaped body portion 10 which is recessed to form an internal cavity 11. The rear wall of the so-formed shell is provided with a slot 12 which extends lengthwise down the wall and partway around the bottom of the body portion, one end of the slot being situated on the side of the body portion opposite to that from which extends a hook 13.

The hook 13 is formed integrally with and extends upwardly from the upper end of the body 10. A mousing piece 14, is also integrally formed with and extends upwardly from the body portion 10, the outer end of the mousing piece 14 normally engaging the inner side of the tip 15 of the hook 13. The detent piece 14, owing to the natural resilience of the material from which it is constructed, can be bent back from the position shown to a position which permits the hook 13 to engage a suitable attachment point. When the mousing piece is released it returns to its position against the tip 15. Thus, accidental disengagement of the snap-hook can be prevented.

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Referring to Figure 2, a swivel, generally indicated by the reference numeral 20, also composed of a plastics material moulded in one piece, comprises an elongated loop 21 through which may be rove a strap or webbing, and from a side of which extends a medially-positioned integral stem 22 formed with a head 23.

The swivel 20 can readily be attached to the snap-hook by inserting the loop part 21 sidewise through the slot 12 of the snap-hook via the cavity 11 so that the head 23 is retained within the cavity and the snap-hook can swivel on the stem 22.

If desired, the swivel 20 can be detached and the end of a rope or cord 24 inserted through the slot 12 and located against detachment by means of a knot 25 tied in its end which is retained in the cavity 11.

It will be seen that a snap-hook, or snap-hook and swivel, according to the invention, can be simple and therefore inexpensive to manufacture and function effectively for the purpose intended.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A snap-hook which comprises a body portion recessed to form a cavity and formed with a slot to provide access through the body portion to the rear of the cavity, a hook formed integrally with and extending from the body portion, and a mousing piece also formed integrally with the body portion for closing the hook, one end of the slot being situated on the opposite side of the body

portion to that from which the hook extends.

2. A snap-hook as claimed in claim 1, which is a one-piece moulding from a plastics material.

3. A snap-hook as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, in combination with a swivel, the swivel comprising a loop, through which can be passed a flexible connector, and extending from the loop an integral stem projecting through the slot in the snap-hook, the stem being formed with an enlarged portion retained in the cavity of the snap-hook.

4. A snap-hook and swivel as claimed in claim 3, wherein the swivel is detachable from the snap-hook by passing it through the opening of the cavity in the snap-hook.

5. A snap-hook and swivel as claimed in claim 3 or claim 4, wherein the swivel is a one-piece moulding from a plastics material.

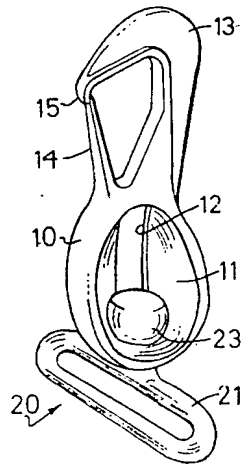
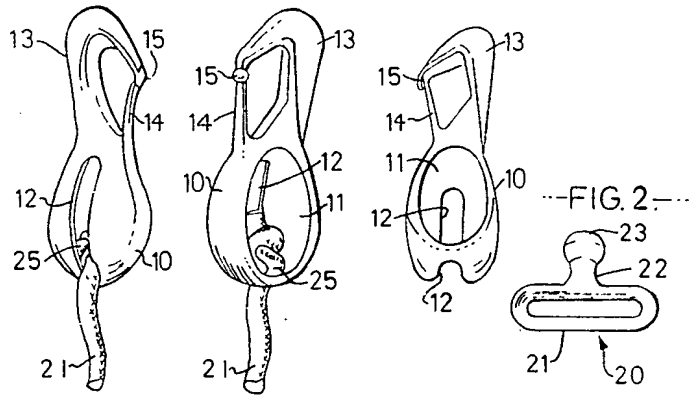
6. A snap-hook substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to, and as shown in, the accompanying drawings.

7. A snap-hook and swivel in combination and substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to, and as shown in, the accompanying drawings.

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---FIG. 5--- ---FIG. 4--- ---FIG. 1---



---FIG. 3---

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